

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/737,266

Examiner

Van Kim T. Nguyen

Applicant(s)

TICE ET AL.

Art Unit

2456

- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to May 26, 2010.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 3-6, 8, 16-23, 30-31 and 33 (being renumbered as 1-16).
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 10/14/2008
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

/Rupal D. Dharia/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2400

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Jon P. Christensen on June 4, 2010. The application has been amended as follows:

(a) **Cancel claims 7, 9-10, 12-13, 24-25 and 32.**

(b) **Amend claims 30 and 33 to read:**

30. An electrical unit having:
a wireless communications port;
a transceiver coupled to the port; and
control circuitry coupled to the transceiver, the control circuitry and transceiver have, at least, an inactive mode interrupted by an intermittent, limited duration higher power active mode, the control circuitry including circuitry to monitor the port for receipt of a wireless synchronization signal, and responsive thereto to establish a predetermined time offset from the wireless synchronizing signal and only a receiver portion of the transceiver to enter the active mode at a time interval, corresponding to the offset, prior to receipt of subsequent wireless synchronizing signals and to receive other incoming signals with the control circuitry responding to an incoming signal requesting information by causing a transmitter portion of the transceiver to enter the active mode and transmitting requested information using at least one byte of information having a plurality of bits via the transceiver and where the control circuitry simultaneously monitors wireless signals received from the transceiver and upon detecting a received wireless signal in the absence of a transmitted wireless signal determines that a higher priority message is being received and responsive to that determination terminates the transmission before completion of the byte, said control circuitry including executable

instructions for at least receiving data using a different protocol than a protocol exhibited by the synchronizing signal and executable instructions that sense and decode multiple data signals received from multiple sources substantially simultaneously and where the sense and decode process comprises bit arbitration.

33. A communication system having at least three devices that can wirelessly transmit and receive signals comprising:

a first device that transmits a sequence of wireless, common, synchronization signals;

a plurality of devices that receive the wireless synchronization signals where members of the plurality each include circuitry to transmit data signals at different offsets from the synchronizing signals in response to at least one of, a substantially random number, or, a unique device identifier;

at least a second device of the plurality of devices receiving the wireless synchronization signals, the second device synchronizes functions to the synchronization signals under control of an internal clock such that energy consumption of a receiver of the second device is increased for a period of time before, during and immediately after each synchronization signal;

at least a third device of the plurality of devices receiving the wireless synchronization signals, the third device synchronizes functions to the synchronization signals under control of an internal clock such that the energy consumption of a receiver of the third device is increased for a period of time before, during and immediately after each synchronization signal, where the second device receives a wireless signal including an information request and transmits a response to the information request based upon its internal state condition, said response having at least one byte of information with a plurality of bits with said transmitted response of the second device received by the third device and the third device receives a wireless signal including an information request and transmits a response to the information request based upon its internal state condition, said response having at least one byte of information with a plurality of bits, said transmitted response of the third device being received by the second device and

where energy consumption of transmitters of each of the second and third devices is increased and each of the second and third devices carries out a bit arbitration process while wirelessly transmitting signals at the same time, said bit arbitration including comparing a transmitted wireless signal of the transmitted responses with a received wireless signal; and

the second or third device terminating transmission before completion of the byte upon detecting a received wireless signal in the absence of a transmitted wireless signal.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 3-6, 8, 16-23, 30-31 and 33 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims are considered allowable when reading the claims none of the references of record alone or in combination disclose or suggest the combination limitations specified in the independent claims including receiving data using a different protocol than a protocol exhibited by the synchronizing signal, sense and decode multiple data signals received from multiple sources substantially simultaneously, and where the sense and decode process comprises bit arbitration, as recited in claim 30; or receiving wireless synchronization signals where members of the receivers each include circuitry to transmit data signals at different offsets from the synchronizing signals in response to at least one of, a substantially random number, or, a unique device identifier, as recited in claim 33.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Van Kim T. Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-3073. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rupal Dharia can be reached on 571-272-3880. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Rupal D. Dharia/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2400

Van Kim T. Nguyen
Examiner
Art Unit 2456

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